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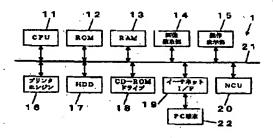
(54) COMPOSITE EQUIPMENT SYSTEM AND ITS MENU DISPLAY METHOD AND RECORDING MEDIUM

(57) Abstract

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To improve the operability of a picture forming system, and to realize more proper management operation.

SOLUTION: In a picture forming system 1 having a plurality of functions such as a copy function, facsimile function, and printer function, the menu display data of each user are preliminarily stored in an HDD 17, and when the user uses the picture forming system 1, a CPU 11 identifies the user, and displays a menu at an operation display part 15 based on the menu display data for the user retrieved according to the user name of the identified user, and permits the user to use only the function included in the displayed menu.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] In the compound machine system which has two or more functions, such as a copy function, a facsimile function, and printer ability A display means to display the menu of each function, and a user-identification means to identify each user name, The control means which performs actuation which the user chose from the menu displayed on said display means, A menu display selection means to display a menu on said display means based on the menu indicative data for the users of the user name searched from said storage means by the user name which a storage means to memorize the menu indicative data for said every user, and said user-identification means identified, The compound machine system characterized by establishing a use limit means to permit use of only the function included in the menu which said menu display selection means chose and was displayed, to the user of the user name which said user-identification means identified. [Claim 2] It is the compound machine system characterized by being data with which said menu indicative data specifies a desktop and a screen sequence in a compound machine system according to claim 1.

[Claim 3] The compound machine system by which a storage means to memorize the menu indicative data of each function, and a display means to display a menu etc. based on the memorized menu indicative data are established in the compound machine system which has two or more functions, such as a copy function, a facsimile function, and printer ability, and said menu indicative data is characterized by being data which specify a desktop and a screen sequence.

[Claim 4] The compound machine system characterized by establishing an external device, the means of communications which deliver and receive information, and the menu indicative-data download means which download said menu indicative data from the device of said exterior, and said storage means is made to memorize in a compound machine system given in claim 1 thru/or any 1 term of 3.

[Claim 5] It is the compound machine system characterized by being data as which said menu indicative data specifies a desktop and a screen sequence by XML format in a compound machine system given in claim 2 thru/or any 1 term of 4.

[Claim 6] It has two or more functions, such as a copy function, a facsimile function, and printer ability. It is the menu method of presentation in the compound machine system equipped with the storage means and the display means. The menu indicative data for every user is beforehand memorized for said storage means. The menu method of presentation of the compound machine system characterized by displaying a menu on said display means based on the menu indicative data for these users which identified the user and was searched from said storage means by the identified user name.

[Claim 7] It is the menu method of presentation of the compound machine system which is the menu method of presentation of a compound machine system according to claim 6, and is characterized by said menu indicative data being data which specify a desktop and a screen sequence.

[Claim 8] It is the menu method of presentation of the compound machine system which is the menu method of presentation of a compound machine system according to claim 6 or 7, and is characterized by for the storage to said storage means of said menu indicative data downloading this menu indicative data by means of communications, and performing it from an external device. [Claim 9] It is the menu method of presentation of the compound machine system which is the menu

method of presentation of a compound machine system given in claim 6 thru/or any 1 term of 8, and is characterized by said menu indicative data being data which specify a desktop and a screen sequence by XML format.

[Claim 10] It is the menu method of presentation of the compound machine system which is the menu method of presentation of a compound machine system given in claim 6 thru/or any 1 term of 9, and is characterized by creating said menu indicative data on an external computer.

[Claim 11] The procedure of memorizing the menu indicative data in the compound machine system which has two or more function and computers, such as a copy function, a facsimile function, and printer ability, for a storage means, The procedure which displays a menu on a display means based on the menu discernment data for these users searched from the menu indicative data by the user name of the user who this discriminated from the procedure of identifying the user of the compound machine system, The record medium which recorded the program for making said computer perform the procedure of permitting use of only the function displayed on said menu, to said user who identified.

[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention] [0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the storage which can be read by computer which memorized the program for performing the menu method of presentation and this in the compound machine system which has two or more functions (application), such as a copy function, a facsimile function, and scanner ability, and its compound machine system.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Managing a use user with an ID card or a password, or recording a user's contents of use from the former, in image formation systems, such as a digital compound machine which is the compound machine system which has two or more functions (application), such as a copy function, a facsimile function, and printer ability, is known. Only when a user is accepted to be the user registered with the ID card or the password to JP,2000-10441,A as such a thing, the copying machine system which permits use is indicated. Moreover, the compound office device which JP,2000-15898,A is made to carry out the centralized control of User Information only to a specific server, and permits a user's collating and use to it in two or more compound office devices connected on the network is indicated.

[0003] However, by these devices, since licence to a user was performed per device, only the specific function of a device had the problem that use was nonpermissible. Furthermore, since it was only only permitting use of a device, when using a device, the user had to choose the function from the start, and when the function often used by people was various, there was also a problem that a setup was troublesome.

[0004] If the password is entered at the time of use by choosing as JP,6-130766,A the function which a user wants to display beforehand as a device which has improved the latter point, and setting up the password, only the function chosen beforehand is displayed and the image processing system with which selection of a function becomes easy is indicated. Moreover, the PASONA rise data for carrying out the PASONA rise of a display item or the setting item are memorized with user ID to the server at JP,11-17862,A, and if a host machine receives authentication at the time of use of a device, the image reader which can perform the display which transmitted PASONA rise data to the device and suited a user's application is indicated.

[0005] However, since it was only choosing the item displayed among top menus in the former image processing system, a deep hierarchy's display had the problem that personal it could not set up. Moreover, in the latter image reader, since they downloaded from a server when PASONA rise data have authentication, there was [a problem that it could not be used unless it is in the condition always connected with the server].

[0006] When it is going to hold the data with which saving data at a server is often performed like the latter example, and **** should display this for [all] users, it is because the amount of data becomes huge. For example, supposing it prepares the menu indicative data to three hierarchies per person, using a user as 100 persons and 12 carbon buttons are shown in one display screen, when the number of the menu indicative datas which should be held is set to 100x123=172800 and magnitude of the data per screen is made into 1 K byte, it needs 168 megabytes or more of data area. This is the magnitude which cannot be mounted as an actual problem.

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] As it can give the licence of a device for every function to each user, it aims at enabling it to perform more suitable management employment, while this invention is made in order to solve the above trouble, it displays a menu suitable at the time of each user's use and raises the operability of a compound machine system. Moreover, the menu indicative data for every user is actually stored in the memory of the amount which can be carried to a compound machine system, and it aims at enabling it to also perform the edit easily.

[0008]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to attain the above purpose, the compound machine system of this invention In the compound machine system which has two or more functions, such as a copy function, a facsimile function, and printer ability A display means to display the menu of each function, and a user-identification means to identify each user name, The control means which performs actuation which the user chose from the menu displayed on the above-mentioned display means, A menu display selection means to display a menu on the above-mentioned display means based on the menu indicative data for the users of the user name searched from the above-mentioned storage means by the user name which a storage means to memorize the menu indicative data for every above-mentioned user, and the above-mentioned user-identification means identified, To the user of the user name which the above-mentioned user-identification means identified, a use limit means to permit use of only the function included in the menu which the above-mentioned menu display selection means chose, and was displayed is established.

[0009] At this time, the above-mentioned menu indicative data is good in it being data which specify a desktop and a screen sequence. Moreover, the compound machine system of this invention establishes a storage means to memorize the menu indicative data of each function, and a display means display a menu etc. based on that memorized menu indicative data, in the compound machine system which has two or more functions, such as a copy function, a facsimile function, and printer ability, and it is characterized by for the above-mentioned menu indicative data to be data which specify a desktop and a screen sequence.

[0010] Moreover, in these compound machine systems, it is good to establish an external device, the means of communications which deliver and receive information, and the menu indicative-data download means which download the above-mentioned menu indicative data from the device of the above-mentioned exterior, and the above-mentioned storage means is made to memorize. Furthermore, the above-mentioned menu indicative data is good in it being data which specify a desktop and a screen sequence by XML format.

[0011] Moreover, the menu method of presentation of the compound machine system by this invention It has two or more functions, such as a copy function, a facsimile function, and printer ability. It is the menu method of presentation in the compound machine system equipped with the storage means and the display means. The menu indicative data for every user is beforehand memorized for the above-mentioned storage means, a user is identified, and it is characterized by displaying a menu on the above-mentioned display means based on the menu indicative data for the users searched from the above-mentioned storage means by the identified user name.

[0012] Here, the above-mentioned menu indicative data is good in it being data which specify a desktop and a screen sequence. Furthermore, the storage to the above-mentioned storage means of the above-mentioned menu indicative data is good to download the menu indicative data by means of communications, and to be made to perform it from an external device. Moreover, the above-mentioned menu indicative data is good in it being data which specify a desktop and a screen sequence by XML format. In addition, the above-mentioned menu indicative data is good to make it create on an external computer.

[0013] Moreover, the procedure of memorizing the menu indicative data in the compound machine system by which the record medium by this invention has two or more function and computers, such as a copy function, a facsimile function, and printer ability, for a storage means, The procedure of identifying the user of the image formation system, and the procedure which displays a menu on a display means based on the menu discernment data for the users searched from the menu indicative data by the user name of the user who identified, It is the record medium which recorded the program for making the above-mentioned computer perform the procedure of permitting use of only the function displayed on the above-mentioned menu, to the user who did [above-mentioned]

discernment. [0014]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the gestalt of desirable implementation of this invention is explained with reference to a drawing. First, the image formation system which is 1 operation gestalt of the compound machine system by this invention is explained using <u>drawing 1</u>. <u>Drawing 1</u> is the block diagram showing the image formation structure of a system. This image formation system 1 is a digital compound machine equipped with functions, such as a copy, facsimile, and a printer. And it has CPU11, ROM12, RAM13, the image read station 14, the actuation display 15, printer engine 16, a hard disk drive (HDD) 17, CD-ROM drive 18, the Ethernet (trademark) interface (I/F) 19, and the network control section (NCU) 20, and these are connected by the system bus 21. Moreover, the personal computer (PC) terminal 22 is connected to this image formation system 1 through Ethernet I/F19.

[0015] CPU11 is a central processing unit and is a control means which performs generalization control of this whole image formation system, such as processing a control code and image data, by using the control program memorized by ROM12. ROM12 stores the control program used for processing and management of data, or surrounding module control by CPU11. RAM13 is random access memory and is used for the work-piece memory used in case CPU11 performs data processing, the image memory which stores image data.

[0016] The image read station 14 is a unit which reads the image of a manuscript. The actuation display 15 is equipped with the display which is a display means for displaying the menu for every user, and the operating state of an image formation system, and consists of LCD, and the control unit which consists of a touch panel by which the laminating was carried out to LCD, and two or more carbon buttons. The laser write-in unit which scans optically the photo conductor top with which the interior does not illustrate printer engine 16 by the laser beam modulated according to a drawing signal, The image formation unit constituted with a photo conductor and each process unit of the perimeter, and the device section containing the form conveyance section which becomes a list from each roller, such as a resist roller pair, etc., It consists of an engine driver which is the control section, and an image formation unit, and sequence actuation of the form conveyance section and a laser write-in unit are controlled by the command from CPU11 and printing, or drawing data, and printing processing is performed with them.

[0017] HDD17 is the storage means of a non-volatile, and is a unit which memorizes various kinds of data inputted by the image data read by the image read station 14, Ethernet I/F19 mentioned later, and NCU20. Moreover, it is also a storage means to memorize the menu indicative data displayed on the actuation display 15. Although CD-ROM drive 18 is a unit for installing various application programs by CD-ROM media, it is not indispensable to this invention. [of this configuration] [0018] Ethernet I/F19 is a unit for connecting with the device of the exteriors, such as a personal computer, possible [data communication] by the Local Area Network (LAN), and is means of communications. With this operation gestalt, it is connectable with the PC terminal 22 with a TCP/IP protocol. NCU20 is a network control unit which manages connection with a communication line and cutting of a public line etc., and is also the communication control unit which performs facsimile communications control. The PC terminal 22 is equipped with the function to edit the menu indicative data displayed on the actuation display 15 of the image formation system 1, and the menu indicative data edited here can be transmitted to HDD17 via Ethernet I/F19, can be read by CPU11, and it can change it into the condition which can be displayed.

[0019] In the image formation system of this operation gestalt, a menu indicative data required for the menu display process for every user is first created at the PC terminal 22, and after downloading this to the image formation system 1 and making HDD17 memorize, when the power source of the image formation system 1 is switched on again, the menu display process according to a menu indicative data is performed. The example of a menu display in this operation gestalt is shown in drawing 2. After switching on a power source or completing the former user's use, the initial screen shown in 31 is displayed. Here, a user's selection of its user name (here "user 1") displays the password input screen shown in 32.

[0020] CPU11 is compared with the password registered beforehand if a user enters a password here. If in agreement, the use purpose selection screen shown in 33 will be displayed. Here, CPU11

functions as a user-identification means. If a user chooses the use purpose on the use purpose selection screen 33, the document selection screen shown in 34 below will be displayed. And if a use document is chosen on the document selection screen 34, the function selection screen shown in 35 will be displayed.

[0021] In the function selection screen 35, the function in which use was permitted under these conditions with the information on the user and the use purpose which were chosen until now, and a document is displayed. And if a function to use out of the function in which the user was displayed is chosen, the screen of each function shown in 36 will be displayed, and the function will become usable. Moreover, the function which is not displayed here cannot be used. Since these displays are performed with reference to the menu indicative data by which CPU11 was beforehand registered into HDD17, CPU11 functions as a user-identification means and a use limit means. Moreover, since the display information for every user is also included in the menu indicative data so that it may mention later, and CPU11 displays with reference to this, it is also a menu display selection means. [0022] Although the menu indicative data in this operation gestalt is created in an XML format next, it explains this XML format. XML is the abbreviation for eXtensible Markup Language, is the language for giving structure to a document, and is the language independent of specific application. If the description of having this structure is used, the structure of the data treated by the program could also be described and the description of this XML format will be used for description of the menu indicative data in the image formation system of this operation gestalt.

[0023] The document of an XML format consists of XML declaration, a document type declaration, and an XML instance. What starts in <?xml can specify a version, a character code, etc. by XML declaration. In describing data, a document type declaration is unnecessary and describes the contents of data by the XML instance. There are an initiation tag, contents, a termination tag, and an empty element as element of an XML instance. The markup of the beginning of the XML element of the arbitration which is not empty is carried out with an initiation tag. The markup of the end of the element which starts with an initiation tag must be carried out with a termination tag. Moreover, additional information can be given to an element as follows with an attribute.

< element name Attribute name 1=" attribute value 1" Attribute name 2=" attribute value 2" ... > [0024] Moreover, what a document element does not have a low-ranking element, that is, shows clearly that there are no contents is called empty element tag, and it is a thing as follows.
<Element name (attribute assignment)/, for example, the following two expressions,> brings about the same effectiveness.

<image file="fig1.jpg"/> <image file="fig1.jpg"> </image> [0025] Next, it indicates as a menu indicative data of an XML format of the example of a display shown in drawing 2, and the processing which displays using the data is explained using drawing 3 thru/or drawing 6. Drawing 3 is [drawing 5 of page information of drawing 4 of XML declaration and screen information] drawing of the example of data of User Information having shown the part, respectively. Drawing 6 is the flow Fig. having shown the processing which displays with reference to the data of an XML format.

[0026] The screen information shown in <u>drawing 3</u> is data which defined the frame on a screen, and arrangement of a viewing area, and the page information shown in <u>drawing 4</u> is data which defined the alphabetic character displayed on an above-mentioned frame and an above-mentioned viewing area, and the keycode which shows a function. These two are data which specify the design of a display screen. On the other hand, User Information shown in <u>drawing 5</u> R> 5 is data which defined the class of screen displayed on the processing according to actuation, or a degree for every user, and is data which specify a screen sequence. Here, although the example of data was divided into <u>drawing 3</u> thru/or <u>drawing 5</u> and was shown from the convenience of illustration, HDD17 memorizes as data which continued in fact.

[0027] If the power source of an image formation system is switched on, CPU11 will start processing of the flow shown in <u>drawing 6</u>, in order to display a menu on the actuation display 15 using this menu indicative data. User Information is first searched with step S1, and the element of User Information whose identifier is an "initial screen" is looked for. And the data of the operating page number are read among the attributes which are beginning to read all the data of the element which corresponds at step S2, and are given. And the element of page information with the page

number which the data shows from page information is searched with step S3, and the data of a use screen number are read among the attributes which are beginning to read all the data of the element which corresponds by step S4, and are given. Next, the element with the screen number which the data shows from screen information of screen information is searched with step S5, and all the data of the element are read.

[0028] Since the screen information and page information which are used now gather, the processing table corresponding to the keycode of the key (frame) which expressed to the actuation display 15 as step S6 using these data, and was pressed from User Information at step S7 is created. And if a user does the depression of a certain key, processing corresponding to the keycode of the key will be performed at step S8. Not only display-related processing, such as assignment of the identifier of the screen displayed on a degree, but the processing performed by driving the image read stations 14 and printer engine 16, such as activation of a copy function, is included in this processing. And it returns to step S2, processing is repeated, User Information of the screen displayed on a degree is read, and the next display is prepared. The above processing is repeated until a power source is disconnected. [0029] Next, the example applied to the menu indicative data which showed processing of this flow to drawing 3 thru/or drawing 5 is explained concretely. First, CPU11 searches the element of User Information whose identifier is an "initial screen", and reads all the data of the corresponding element from User Information shown in drawing 5. And it is "1" when the operating page number is taken out among the attributes given to the User Information.

[0030] Then, the element of the page information whose page number is "1" is searched from the page information shown in drawing 4, and all the data of the element are read. And it is "1" when a use screen number is taken out among the attributes given to the page information. Then, the element of the screen information whose screen number is "1" is searched from the screen information shown in drawing 3, and all the data of the element are read. And character representation is performed within the limit for a frame display using page information using the data of the read screen information. Furthermore, the table of the processing corresponding to a keycode is created using User Information. The initial screen shown in drawing 2 by 31 is displayed in this condition. [0031] here -- a user -- for example, a "user 1" carbon button -- pushing (it touching) -- CPU11 obtains the keycode "2" specified as the key displayed as "the user 1" by the page information of this screen. And since the "keycode user" is specified as processing corresponding to a keycode "2" by User Information, this processing is performed. Since it says that processing of a "keycode user" expresses the page of the identifier of the graphic character of the frame corresponding to a keycode as the screen currently displayed, and memorizes the graphic character as "an argument 1", "a user 1" is memorized as "an argument 1" and processing for displaying the page whose identifier is "a user 1" is performed. As this processing, the element of User Information whose identifier is "a user 1" is searched, and all the data of the corresponding element are read from User Information shown in drawing 5. And it is "2" when the operating page number is taken out among the attributes given to the User Information.

[0032] Then, the element of the page information whose page number is "2" is searched from the page information shown in <u>drawing 4</u>, and all the data of the element are read. And it is "2" when a use screen number is taken out among the attributes given to the page information. Then, the element of the screen information whose screen number is "2" is searched from the screen information shown in <u>drawing 3</u>, and all the data of the element are read. And character representation is performed within the limit for a frame display using page information using the data of the read screen information. Since the frame number number is specified as "the argument 1" at this time, the graphic character of the frame of 3 replaces with the "user 1" who is the contents of the "argument 1" memorized previously, and displays. Furthermore, the table of the processing corresponding to a keycode is created using User Information. The password input screen shown in <u>drawing 2</u> by 32 is displayed in this condition.

[0033] Here, a user gets the keycode "6" specified as the key which displayed the password as the password whose CPU11 is the input-statement character of the frame with which the "character string" is specified as the keycode by the page information of this screen when the carbon button "after [O.K.]" an input is pushed, and "O.K." And if in agreement, since it collates the password into which CPU11 was inputted with the password registered beforehand, and "1 of a user 1" is

specified as processing corresponding to a keycode "6" by User Information, processing for displaying the page whose identifier is next "1 of a user 1" is performed. If not in agreement, the entered password is eliminated and the input of a password is required again. [0034] As processing for displaying the page whose identifier is "1 of a user 1", the element of User Information whose identifier is "1 of a user 1" is searched, and all the data of the corresponding element are read from User Information shown in drawing 5. And it is "3" when the operating page number is taken out among the attributes given to the User Information. Then, the element of the page information whose page number is "3" is searched from the page information shown in drawing4, and all the data of the element are read. And it is "1" when a use screen number is taken out among the attributes given to the page information. Then, the element of the screen information whose screen number is "1" is searched from the screen information shown in drawing3, and all the data of the element are read.

[0035] And character representation is performed within the limit for a frame display using page information using the data of the read screen information. Furthermore, the table of the processing corresponding to a keycode is created using User Information. The use purpose selection screen shown in <u>drawing 2</u> by 33 is displayed in this condition. here -- a user -- for example, a "report" carbon button -- pushing (it touching) -- CPU11 obtains the keycode "3" specified as the key displayed as "the report" by the page information of this screen. And since "2 of a user 1" is specified as processing corresponding to a keycode "3" by User Information, processing for displaying the page whose identifier is next "2 of a user 1" is performed.

[0036] In this operation gestalt, in this way, the indicative data of a page which had the display specified by User Information is searched, respectively, and is acquired from page information and screen information, and it displays with that data. Since it is displaying using the screen information with the same initial screen 31 at this time 33, for example, the use purpose selection screen, arrangement of a frame is the same as an initial screen 31, but since page information differs from User Information, the contents of a display differ from processing of a result in which the carbon button was pushed. Thus, since it can be necessary to carry out [****]-izing of a part to be able to use it in common among data by creating a menu indicative data in the data format which describes the screen sequence and desktop like an XML format easily and it is not necessary to make it memorize separately, magnitude of a menu indicative data can be made small.

[0037] Moreover, management of which user used it for what purpose is attained about information by saving log information about the purpose of use and a use document as shown in this example. In addition, it cannot be overemphasized that you may carry out [display / after that / the menu to display is not restricted to this example, displays a functional menu immediately after a user identification instead of the use purpose or a document, and / menu / a detail setup of a function]. Moreover, such the menu method of presentation is also applicable to electronic equipment other than an image formation system.

[0038] The procedure of memorizing the menu indicative data of an image formation system which mentioned above the record medium by this invention for a storage means, The procedure which displays a menu on a display means based on the menu discernment data for the users searched from the menu indicative data by the user name of the user who discriminated from the procedure of identifying the user of the image formation system, It is the record medium which recorded the program for making a computer perform the procedure of permitting use of only the function displayed on the menu, to the user who identified. Here, a menu indicative data is good to create in the XML format which consists of data which specify a desktop and a screen sequence. [0039] Moreover, storages are CD-ROM, a floppy disk or a memory card, etc. And when the program for performing the menu display for every user and use functional limit which were beforehand mentioned above is not stored in that ROM12, CD-ROM by this invention on which the above-mentioned program was recorded is inserted in CD-ROM drive 18, that program is read to the image formation system shown, for example in drawing 1, and HDD17 is made to load to it. By it, CPU can read that program and can perform now the menu display for every user and use functional limit by this invention. [0040] .

[Effect of the Invention] As explained above, while according to the compound machine system and

its menu method of presentation of this invention displaying a menu suitable at the time of each user's use and raising the operability of a compound machine system, as compound machine system use authorization can be given for every function to each user, more suitable management employment can be performed. Moreover, if a menu indicative data is created with the data which specify a desktop and screen sequences, such as an XML format, the menu indicative data for every user can be actually stored in the memory of the amount which can be carried to a compound machine system, and the edit can also be performed easily. Furthermore, if it enables it to download the menu indicative data created by the external device to an image formation system, data, such as a change in a user and modification of a display menu, can be changed easily. Furthermore, if the record medium by this invention is used, that function can also be easily given to a compound machine system without the function to perform the menu display for every user and use functional limit which were beforehand mentioned above.

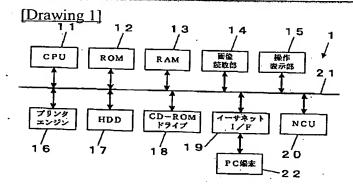
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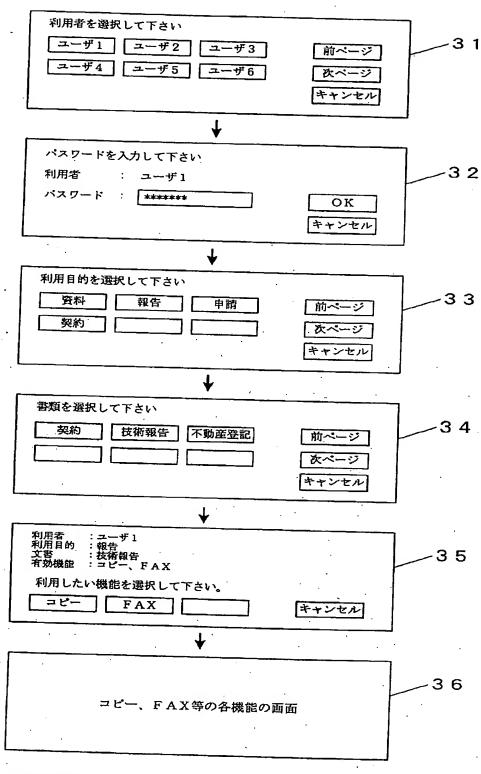
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DRAWINGS



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(「初期面面として使用)
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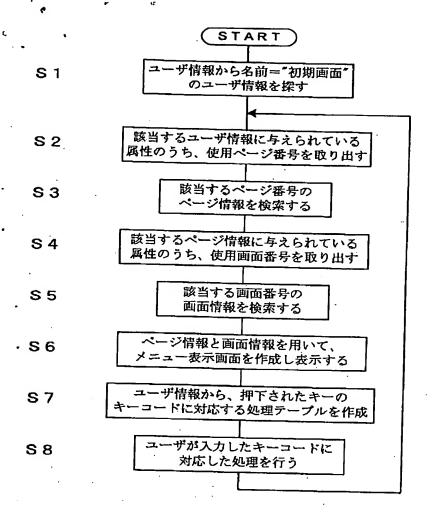
[Drawing 2]



[Drawing 4]

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[Drawing 6]



[Translation done.]

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